

1.941
A5R89

RUSHMORE

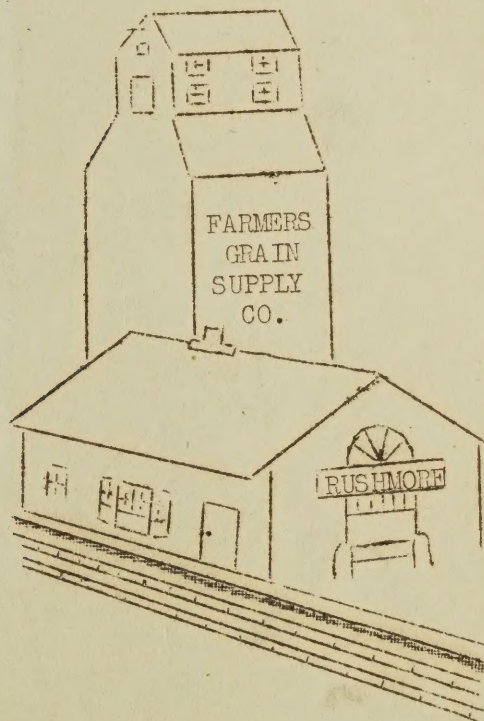
VILLAGE CENTERED COMMUNITY

IN THE

CORNBELT IN WARTIME

By

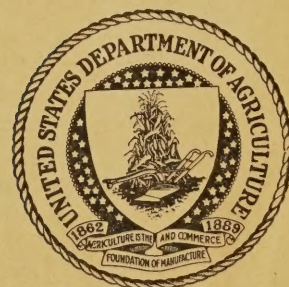
Nat T. Frame, Social Science Analyst



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

USDA
LIB

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



1.941
BOOK NUMBER R5R89

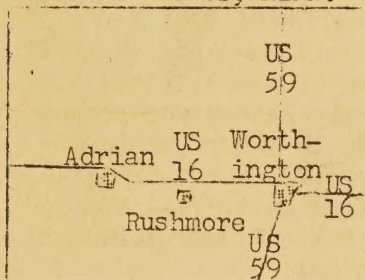
562773
GPO 8-7871

R U S H M O R E

A Village-Centered Community in the Corn Belt in Wartime

By Nat T. Frame, Social Science Analyst

NOBLES COUNTY, MINN.



As church spires, rising above the trees surrounding the commons of a New England village symbolize the idealism of the town meeting country, so grain elevators, standing out above the planted groves of villages on the midwestern prairies, symbolize a productivity which furnishes food to the Nation. The village of Rushmore is located near the center of Nobles County in southwestern Minnesota in one of the most productive areas of the Corn Belt.

Rushmore was settled in 1873 by a colony from New York State, followed by German and Scandinavian farmers, and, situated on a railroad, soon became an important local shipping and trade center. Although its physical and historical setting is different from that of the northern New York community studied by Emily Hoag ¹/₁, Rushmore, Minnesota has many cultural aspects in common with Belleville, New York. Its culture, dominated by the Yankee, Scotch, and Scandinavian traditions of its leading early families, was for many years that of a well-educated, orderly and civic-minded rural community of high repute throughout the countryside.

Rushmore community had a population in 1910 of 1,740 persons of whom 237 lived in the village and 1,503 on farms in three surrounding townships. In the decades during and following World War I, while the farm population in the three townships within the community increased about 100 and the village grew from 313 in 1920 to 423 in 1940, the trade, prestige, and influence of the village steadily declined. Automobiles over hard roads took the trade to the city of Worthington, the county seat 10 miles away, to Adrian (1,000 population) 7 miles west, and to other centers. Many citizens of the Rushmore community would have agreed with the statement by Charles J. Galpin: "It may be generally said that villages under 1,000 population are disappearing, though there are exceptions. And why are these small communities disappearing? Because the farmer, himself, is making them disappear. Good roads, automobiles, the desire for better wares send the farmer miles beyond these little communities where he formerly was content to deal. These hamlets cannot live."

¹/₁ U.S.D.A. Bulletin 884, published in 1921 under the title "The National Influence of a Single Farm Community."

Rushmore's physical lay-out is typical of hundreds of Western Corn Belt villages (or towns in Iowa). Its main street runs south from the white Lutheran Church past the city hall and fire station, the postoffice, the bank, the big and little stores, some with typical "city fronts" but all appearing a bit weather beaten, to the depot, cream station, and elevator on the railroad. It is wide enough to serve as a highway, and, except on Wednesday and Saturday nights, seldom seems crowded. The main east and west U.S. Route 16 runs a mile north, while the north and south main road passes about a quarter mile to the east. On a checkerboard of short blocks 128 typical Midwest frame houses are set in modestly landscaped lawns, under rows of shade trees, not yet quite grown to maturity, lining the graveled streets. Sixty percent of the villagers own their own homes, about four-fifths of them being free from mortgage. Not one in ten needs any major repairs, although several are unpretentious and 20 percent of them do not have private baths.

The Rushmore Community Survey

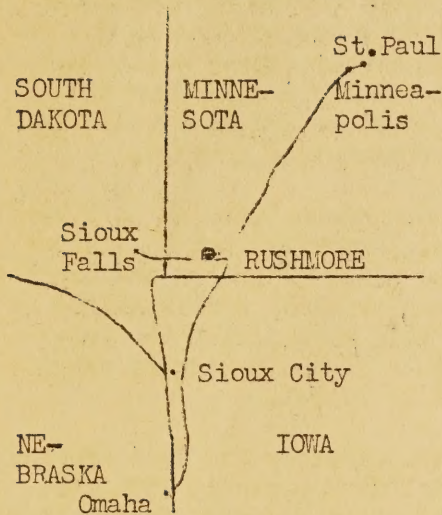
A statistical determination by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics selected Nobles County, Minn. as one of 8 counties in the Corn Belt to serve, with 63 other counties, as laboratories for the study of rural culture.

Nobles County, although created in 1857, was not settled until after the Civil War. A rank growth of blue-joint grass covered the prairies. The east side was flat and somewhat marshy, with several lakes. The western part was more rolling and considerably cut by streams. During the 1870's the famous National Temperance Colony settled much of the east around Worthington and the Catholic Colony the west around Adrian. The 1870 census population of 117 had increased to 2,738 by 1875. The grasshopper scourges of 1873-4-5 caused great damage and discouraged new settlers but when the grasshoppers stopped coming the people came in hordes. By 1880 the population had risen to 4,435; by 1885 to 5,642. Foreign-born migrants made up nearly a third of the population in 1890. They were from Germany 752, Sweden 470, Norway 323, Great Britain and Canada 318, Ireland 197, Denmark 41, Holland 32, others 31.

Nobles has become an intensive corn, hog, cattle, and turkey country, comparable with the best in the Corn Belt. In 1940 its rural farm level of living index was 138, second highest among the 12 laboratory counties in the midwest.

Reconnaissance studies of Nobles County in 1944 indicated that an intensive study of a particular community was desirable. Rushmore Village, with the surrounding townships of Dewald, Little Rock, and Ransom, was chosen as the village-centered community to be studied. From the 497 houses in the community listed in the 1940 census, 50 families (37 farm, 13 village) were selected at random for interviewing.

Rushmore History - 1880-1940



Among the settlers who poured into Nobles County, after the grasshopper scourges were over, was a group, mostly Yankees and Scotch, under the guidance of S. M. Rushmore and his brother. Their name was given to the settlement developed in 1878-9 around Miller Station on the W. & S. F. Ry., which had been laid in 1876. It had been one of the outposts of the Miller-Humiston firm, then bankrupt, the backers of the National Temperance Colony. By 1885 Rushmore had a flour mill, hotel, church, school, and two stores. A plat map dated 1888 shows 19 buildings in the village. The State Board of Immigration described the surround-

ing lands as "a fine grain and corn section". Some of this land was taken up by the Yankees and Scotch, founders of the Rushmore Presbyterian Church, but much of it went into the hands of Scandinavians who came to help build the railroads and of Missouri Synod Germans who came to farm. Some of it came later into the possession of Presbyterian Germans who acquired farms in a neighborhood around an inactive Norwegian Lutheran Church and of Hollanders who moved in from Iowa.

Township and Village Government

The township government, as intended by the State law when the county was established in 1857, did not really begin to function until immigration began in 1872. Town meeting chairmen and town clerks were then elected, as well as a supervisor for each township. The incorporation of Rushmore village, with mayor, 3 trustees, assessor, constable, was not voted in until 1900. In 1925 a volunteer fire department with 15 firemen was organized. Fire calls in the city are paid by the city government, and nearby farmers who pay \$25.00 for 7-year membership are entitled to free service. Electric service is purchased by the village council from Worthington's municipally owned plant. The population records for Rushmore village during the decades from 1910 to 1940 show a steady growth from 237 to 313 to 332 to 423, who were living in 1940 in 128 households.

Community Activities Before World War II

Some measure of the religious, educational and social activities in the village and its surrounding farming community can be noted from the dates of construction of the local churches, the high- and grade-school attendance, and the names and dates of active civic and social organizations.

In 1881 the Missouri Synod Lutherans built St. John's Church in the village to seat 125. Sometime before 1900 a Norwegian Lutheran Church was constructed in the open country 5 miles south of the village but the congregation became dispersed and it was removed in the 1920's. In 1912 the German Presbyterians built Immanuel Church, seating 250, in the open country a mile from the unused Norwegian church. A new church, seating 270, was built in the village by the First Presbyterian congregation in 1922.

The high school in the Rushmore Independent District in 1930-31 enrolled 21 senior students (16 village, 5 country) and 25 juniors (13 village, 12 country). By 1935-6 the senior students had dropped to 5 and in 1940-1 those entering the senior class were required to go to Worthington to graduate. During this same period the total enrollment in the grades in the 12 schools of the community changed only slightly from 270 in 1935-6 to 264 in 1940-1.

The W.C.T.U. dates from 1922 and the Cemetery Aid is a women's society of long standing. The Commercial Club began in 1926, the 4-H Club, 1927; Bridge Club, 1930; Little Rock Farmers' Union, 1932; Bowling Tournament, 1938; Dewald Unit of Farm Bureau, 1939; Boy Scouts, 1940; Girl Scouts, 1941.

Community Services - 1940

The community services have been reasonably adequate for the needs of the community for some years. A telegraph office, established at the local depot in 1907, has been open from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. daily. Beginning in 1930 the telephone company maintained a local telephone operator. A dial system was established in 1943 in a brick building adequately housing the equipment. In 1878 the railroad built a depot at Miller Station and a postoffice was established named Rushmore. In 1935 the postoffice receipts were \$2,427 which was somewhat increased by 1940. The office contains 98 boxes for those who call for their mail. Two rural routes run out from Rushmore; one covers 50.6 miles with 149 stops, the other 45.64 miles with 153 stops. The Rushmore "Enterprise" published since 1899 reaches about 450 homes within a 5-mile radius. The railroad service is excellent for an agricultural community. There are 2 passenger trains and 2 freights each way daily between Sioux Falls and Minneapolis. Since 1935 through busses have operated over Highway 16, 1 mile north of Rushmore, stopping both afternoon and evening for east and westbound passengers. There was no public library service until 1940 when a WPA project was sponsored by the city. Located in the variety store it was open Wednesday and Saturday evenings with Girl Scouts in charge. Some of the newer books were kept on a pay shelf, while others were without charge. The health services on which the community depends have been the Worthington Clinic of 7 doctors, the Worthington General Hospital (14 beds), the Adrian Hospital (17 beds) and private physicians in those towns. The bank at Rushmore has 3 full-time employees.

Big Events at Rushmore

On May 31 and June 1, 1938 Rushmore celebrated its sixtieth anniversary with a celebration entitled "The Days of '78". All members of the Commercial Club grew beards, handle-bar mustaches, or "sideburns". "Honest Abe" was the star actor and was offered a contract to appear as Lincoln in the "Million Dollar Spectacle". The bewhiskered "House of David" Baseball Team of Benton Harbor, Mich. played the Worthington team on the first day.

The parade on the second day, which covered the history of the community, was the feature. The crowd was estimated between 8 and 10 thousand. The parade was nearly a mile and a half long and consisted of everything from old-fashioned stage coaches, covered wagons to the three companies of the Minnesota National Guard, Worthington Drum and Bugle Corps, and elaborate floats.

The Minnesota State Corn Husking Contest held near Rushmore in the fall of 1941, sponsored by The Farmer, was conducted by the Rushmore Commercial Club, the County Farmers' Picnic Association and the Farm Bureau. It drew thousands of people not only from Nobles County but from many other counties as well. A program followed the contest. In March 1945 a "Feed Sack Style Show" with a program and free lunch in celebration of the planned opening of a local locker plant proved a unique and popular community affair.

Farm Life in Rushmore Before the War

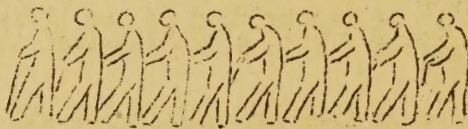
In the good farming decades before and after 1900 many dignified farmsteads were established with large white houses with red barns and outbuildings, all enclosed by planted small woodlots, which also served as windbreaks. In the boom times, just after World War I, some additional building was done and some visionary expenditures were incurred which caused some foreclosures and property transfers, but the boom psychology in Rushmore was moderate compared with many Corn Belt communities. Nor did the depression of the 1930's hit them unduly hard. The stability of the farm population is indicated by the fact that 67 percent of the sampled farm families who were owners lived in the same houses from 1934 to 1944 and 46 percent of those who were tenants moved only once.

Farm values in Rushmore as a part of Nobles County went through an almost complete cycle from 1910 to 1940. The figures for the county showed average values for farms and buildings in 1910, \$14,426; in 1920, \$39,976; in 1930, \$21,504; in 1940, \$15,704. At the same time the average value of implements and machinery on each farm steadily increased from \$414 in 1910 to \$1,375 in 1940. In the latter year over four-fifths of the farm incomes were based on production valued per farm at \$1,000 to \$5,900, under one-tenth of the farms produced less than \$1,000 and not one-tenth went \$6,000 or over.

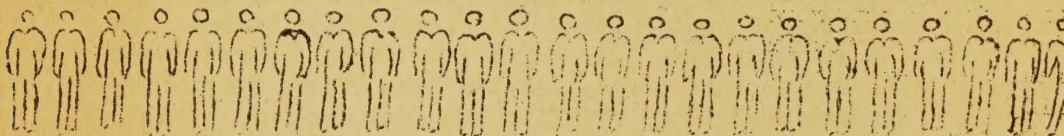
The 1940 census showed that the homes in which the Rushmore farm families lived were 44 percent owned and 56 percent rented. Four percent needed major repairs, 10 percent had running water, 7 percent had private baths, and 6 percent inside toilets, but another 6 percent were without even outside toilets. In the Dewald and Ransom parts of the community, where there were already many miles of primary electric lines, over 60 percent of the farm families had electric lights.

The fact that operators retired during 1930-40 from only 11 percent of the farms in the Rushmore sample calls attention to how rapidly the farm population is replacing itself. BAE statisticians forecast that in the decade 1940-50 the number of young farm men in Nobles County who can be expected to reach their 25th birthday will be 234 for every 100 farm men between 25-70 who can be expected to die or retire. This is the fifth highest replacement rate in all the Minnesota and Iowa counties. The prospect that half the Rushmore youth will not be likely to find opportunities at home but will have to continue to leave the community as in the past is a matter of deep concern to many of the local folks.

Nobles County Farm Male Replacement Rate
For the decade 1940-50



For each ten farm men, between 25-70 who can be expected to die or retire



Over twenty-three young men will reach their 25th birthdays

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

The news of Pearl Harbor surprised and shocked Rushmore, as it did other communities throughout the Nation especially those in the Midwest who had felt themselves pretty far removed from a world war. The Whitneys, Rohwers, DeGroots, Malmquists, and the others, making up the American citizenship of this rather typical Midwest village and farm community, realized that war would change many things, but they did not become unduly excited over such prospects. They were proud of the material progress their community had made within the lifetime of many 70-year-olds still living. They had felt that they had pretty well weathered the boom of the 20's and the depression of the 30's and were settled down for an epoch of substantial prosperity and stability. The village, it is true, did not have the prestige that it once had. The church people were considerably concerned about

the lessening influence of the church in the community; and the Yankees and the Scandinavians, who were especially interested in education for their children, were not entirely satisfied with the school system. The Germans and Hollanders, often more concerned with providing farms as heritage for their children than high-school education, were steadily increasing their acreages. The effects of the war on the living and the thinking of the community produced at first only minor adjustments.

Red Cross

Through newspaper announcements and meetings of the Ladies' Aid Societies of the Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, a Red Cross group began to meet in 1942 in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. By 1944 results had been fairly good, based on an average participation of about 12 women in preparing bandages and other materials. First-aid instructions were given with an enrollment of approximately 15. For a 3-weeks course in the swimming school at Worthington about 40 children from Rushmore were transported by bus free of charge. As part of the Red Cross program the Mothers' Club was organized in 1943 by women whose sons or daughters were in the armed forces. They donated approximately \$214 from an auction sale and a home-talent play. Later for the blood plasma fund they had a supper and a sale of quilts which netted about \$200. Five blood donors went to Minneapolis, their most accessible center for donations.

Civilian Defense Program

Air-raid wardens were appointed, meetings were held, and there were a few practice black-outs.

Salvage Drives

The Commercial Club took over the rubber salvage. The Commercial Club with the Farm Bureau and, at one time, all the schools salvaged metals. The Boy Scouts collected 25 tons of paper and conducted the aluminum drive. There seemed to be general community support in these campaigns and results of all three were publicized as excellent. The Victory Aids and Girl Scouts with the aid of the Brownie Scouts, organized in 1944, were fairly successful in collecting kitchen fats from housewives. The local war fund drive for USO was well received. The community met its quotas of bond purchases although apparently farmers in general did not purchase bonds in accordance with their ability to do so.

Bond Sales Promotion

County-wide prestige came to Rushmore, with an accompanying boost in local enthusiasm, when the county managers of the bond sales campaigns made Rushmore the meeting place where farmer workers

from all parts of the county came for their instructions. The oyster suppers served to these workers by Rushmore women proved good morale builders.

War Food Production

The production goals established for the farms of the community were generally met. There was a big increase in victory gardens and home canning and storage was promoted by the Extension Service in the 4-H program and the project group meetings. In a few individual cases shortage of labor or machinery produced hardships, but in the main the family labor left on the farms was adequate to meet the emergency. From the 2,200 farms in the county about 600 men and boys had gone into the armed forces by December 1944. The Rushmore community had furnished its share.

Other Effects of the War

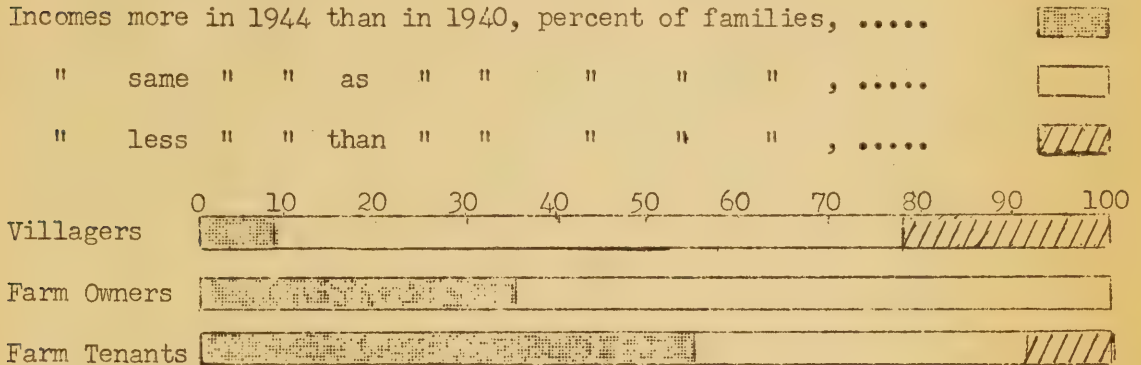
Some noticeable changes took place in the village during the first 3 years of the war. The postoffice receipts increased to more than \$4,000 in 1943-4. The greatest rise was in air mail, parcel post, and first class. Advertising and circulars took a decided drop. Retail business was generally brisker and collections better for all the local merchants who continued in business. The garage and filling stations managed to keep open, but auto dealers could not get cars. The shortage of new farm machinery reduced the number of machinery dealers from three in 1940 to one in 1944. A hardware store and a lumber yard were also closed. The barber shop was closed, as was the beer parlor, a restaurant, and some other small businesses.

Incomes Compared

The substantial and continued increase in bank deposits soon put into the bank at Rushmore, as into all country banks in the Corn Belt, more funds than they had been accustomed to handle. This bank was also handicapped by the absence of their assistant cashier in the armed forces. Apparently most of the new money came from the farms. The canvass made late in 1944 of the 10-percent sample of the village families, which included retired farmers, garage and oil men, elevator operator, hardware dealer, carpenter, blacksmith, laborer, showed 69 percent having the same income in 1944 as in 1940; 23 percent reported less in '44 than in '40 and only 8 percent reported more. In the canvass at the same time of farm families, higher incomes in 1944 than 1940 were reported by 54 percent of the farm renters and by 36 percent of the farm owners. The rest of the farmers, except 8 percent of renters who reported poorer grain crops in '44, said that their incomes were the same in both years. Where farm husband and wife were Germans or Hollanders, two-thirds of them had more income in '44

than '40. Interestingly enough, about three-quarters of these were renters, most under 45 years of age. Several were relatives of their landlords.

Comparable Incomes of Families Interviewed



Local Services Used

Although about two-thirds of the farms in the Rushmore sample were tenanted and nearly one-half of these tenants moved in either '42, '43 or '44, changes in mercantile and professional services available to them (compared with prewar) or changes in their use of such services were almost negligible. Barbers from outside opened the local barber shop for short periods weekly. The beer parlor closed, but the liquor store continued. A blacksmith was still on the job. The farm implement stores, hardware stores, lumber yards, auto dealers, and restaurants were reduced to one each. The local hotel had closed before 1940. The meat market was open in 1940 but closed in 1944. The Rushmore Enterprise was being put out by a printer who came over from Wilmont but the printing of the Worthington Reminder, begun in 1942, was discontinued.

Of the farm families, who had moved to other farms or had retired to town since the beginning of the war, 60 percent had made no changes between '40 and '44 in the location of the services they patronized. Of those who did make changes, two-thirds were newcomers to the community from distances that made such changes necessary. Of the third who moved only short distances but made changes, one-half changed their barbers, drug stores, filling stations, meat markets and restaurants while the other half changed only banks and drug stores.

Service Changes from One Center to Another

Twenty-four families living at present
location under 5 years made _____ 63 changes

Twenty-six families living at present
location 5 years or more made _____ 23 changes

Travel and Visiting

Rationing of cars, tires, and gas affected the travel habits of the villagers more than the farmers. Over 90 percent of the villagers but only 80 percent of the farm owners and 70 percent of the farm renters said that before the war they made trips to visit friends at a distance which were no longer possible in 1944. As to whether they used to make trips for recreation which were no longer possible, 77 percent of the villagers said they now make fewer such trips compared with 64 percent of farm owners and 54 of farm renters who now go less than before the war. In answer to the question "Since the war, have you made trips which you never made previously?", "Yes" was the answer by one out of 12 of the villagers, one of each 11 farm owners, one of each 9 farm renters, one of each 8 farmers who were 45 years old or over.

When it came to the question about seeing more or less often the families with whom commonly associated, 54 percent of the villagers said they see relatives and friends less often than before the war. As to the farmers, 64 percent of the owners but only 46 percent of the renters see their relatives and friends less often.

Farmer Neighborliness in War Times

Trips to visit friends
at a distance

27% reported
same or more
trips than be-
fore the war



Seeing families with whom
commonly associated

49% reported as
often or more
often than be-
fore the war



Special Wartime Activities

Some special war programs and activities appealed more strongly to the villagers, while others appealed to farm people. Participation in these activities was sometimes at the expense of normal prewar organizations, as was explained by some women who attended regular ladies' aids less often because of their Red Cross activities. On the whole, however, there were just as many families who reported attending their regular organization more often during 1944 compared with before the war as there were families who reported attending less often. The farm men did not change their meeting habits much, but the number of farm women who increased the number of meetings they attended was two and a half times more than the number of women who attended fewer meetings. No families reported that their children attended less.

One of the problems facing the war-activity leaders was how to reach the third of the families of the community who did not attend any meetings in the year that ended in the summer of 1944. Evidently these families had not been accustomed to participate in local

organizations. About half of them did not participate in war-related activities other than to make donations when called on. The various salvage and bond drives reached from 50 percent to as high as 96 percent of the families. Of all the families in the community one-third took part in only 5 or less of the war activities, while the other two-thirds participated in from 6 to 12 each. Over two-thirds of the village families helped in Red Cross work while about the same proportion of farm families responded to the appeal for victory gardening and preserving or to the production quotas of the AAA. About 50 percent of the families depended largely on the local newspaper and the radio for information about war-related activities, although 12 to 22 percent said their sources of information were special meetings, county workers, or local leaders.

Commercial and Social Activities

The emergency of the various special wartime campaigns and drives, with their appeals to patriotism, brought forward in Rushmore several new people as leaders. A dozen of the regularly established commercial, welfare, youth, and recreational organizations of the community agreed that each had found one or more new leaders. A couple of them, however, admitted that older leaders had slipped and membership interest was hard to maintain during 1944. The closing of some business places and shortage of help in others made it harder for the Commercial Club to keep up its membership, yet it carried out its annual picnic, its pheasant hunt and banquet, its Santa Claus Day as usual. More money in farmers' pockets perhaps helped the Farm Bureau to increase its membership, although the membership solicitors mentioned the shortage of gas for such work. The bowling team competed once a week but with smaller participation. The card clubs met as usual. The 4-H clubs, the Boy and Girl Scouts, carried on their projects, tours, camps, and achievement days as before and added to these usual activities the collection of wastepaper and milkweed pods and helped on other salvage drives.

Postwar Planning

The Commercial Club's committee on postwar plans, including both villagers and farmers, has discussed some of the problems likely to face the community during the rest of the war and in the period of postwar adjustments. Although the committee made no forecast, some of the members are aware of the tendency for rural trade to center in larger places to the detriment of small villages and for mechanized farms to get larger with fewer farmers needed. They are not unmindful of the dangers of local underemployment after the war. They know the arguments in favor of two men on each 160-acre Nobles County farm, which if followed generally after the war will increase rather than decrease the number of farmers. They realize how much business and employment can be created by a real rural-housing program that will lead to the investment of money accumulated during the war in permanent worth-while improvements on the farms and in the homes of both village and country. They have seen the figures

from the survey conducted by the Worthington Civic and Commerce Association indicating that rural families in Nobles County might be ready to spend \$1,157,662 on houses, barns, silos, and small buildings in the postwar period. They have heard that possibly 165 of the families in Rushmore community are planning to build or remodel houses or barns. Several of the leaders think that the village, if it is on its toes, can furnish more services to the farm families than it has in the past. They accept as not unreasonable the estimates that as soon as the articles are available at fair prices Rushmore families will be wanting not only a lot of electric equipment but also about 100 pumps and water systems, 100 plumbing and disposal plants, 120 heating systems, 130 new kitchen stoves, 250 new refrigerators, 180 new washing machines, 190 new furniture and rugs, 170 new vacuum cleaners, 180 new radios, and many other permanent things as well as smaller, lighter, and more perishable goods, together with repairs and attention that will be best handled through nearby village dealers and service men.

Postwar Rural Housing

Percentage of families,
interviewed in 1944,
who intend after the war

To build new houses
or remodel old ones

38%



To build new or remodel barns
or outbuildings

32%



To buy new or replace household
equipment

88%



The construction in the winter of 1945 of a 312-box locker plant in Rushmore promises to be not only a boon to the families in the local community but an encouraging symbol of mercantile possibilities in the future. The editor of the local weekly paper attributes what he calls the present "comeback" to the risk-taking of two local business men whose successes have restored confidence to others. Some even hope that new village-centered services may be popularized in the fields of recreation, adult education, and health, including semi-professional personal services as well as professional. As individuals,

however, as well as a committee, they doubt if the future can now be foreseen with sufficient clarity to do much specific postwar planning.

Churches

Rushmore, 10 miles from dominantly Protestant Worthington and 7 miles from Catholic Adrian, is the seat of three Protestant churches, two in the village and one out 5 miles in the open country. However, as a considerable number of the families are identified with outside churches, either Protestant or Catholic, the records of the three local churches do not give the complete picture of church influences on the community. The one most evident effect of the war has been to bring about more liberal contributions to church support. Two church budgets, one \$1,800 and the other \$2,200 in 1930 and \$2,100 and \$2,200 respectively in 1940, were raised to \$2,400 and \$2,500 by 1944. The third congregation increased its contribution toward the yearly salary of the pastor from \$1,000 to \$1,200.

The attendance at regular worship services has substantially improved in 1944 over 1940, but the ministers hesitate to credit it to the war. One of the two churches that have made gains attributes it to evangelistic services and pastoral calls, the other to a new minister. At both of the village churches, as well as at the open country church, farmer members are more regular in attendance than are the village members. However it is apparent that a minority of the families in the community are at all regular in church attendance. The combined seating capacity (645) of the three churches has not been ordinarily more than half occupied in recent years.

At the village Presbyterian Church, with an enrolled church membership of 234, which is about the same as for some years past, the weekly Sunday School has had an average attendance of 130. The lay leadership consists largely of school teachers, some of whom are college graduates. Beginning January 1945 about 50 children enrolled in week-day religious educational classes, on released time from the public school, with three teachers in charge provided by the church. A Daily Vacation Bible School, held for 2 weeks each summer, has had consistent attendance of 35. Four of the leaders, each year, have taken the 6 weeks' course offered by the Nobles County Leadership Education School. Three times a year the young people in this church have charge of the regular services: Westminister Fellowship Children's Day (June), Rally Day (September), Youth Vocation Day. The minister of the church wants to be of maximum service to the community but feels that at present he is giving all the community is willing to accept. His successful pastorate which has continued for 17 years may be in part due to his total blindness.

The energetic young minister at the village Lutheran Church, which needs a new parsonage, is endeavoring to meet present-day conditions with modern methods, such as teaching 11 pupils in a week-day

religious education class, but holds to the teachings of the Missouri Synod to which the church belongs. The Immanuel Presbyterian, German, 5 miles from town has shown a steady growth in farmer membership from 80 in 1935, to 100 in 1940, to 140 in 1944. Two services are conducted every Sunday and many calls are made by the minister. Some youth from the congregation generally attend the various summer conferences on Bible Study, Sunday School, and Christian Endeavor. Participation in the Ladies' Aid increased from 15 in 1935 to 28 in 1944. The church women also have prepared Red Cross materials for the boys in the armed services and articles for the hospitals as well as White Cross material for hospitals in "heathen countries". Members of the congregation are contributing to the war by producing all the food they can and buying war bonds. As many of the letters from young men in the armed forces contain requests for prayers, meetings are held to pray for the boys and to keep up the morale on the home front. In letters to the boys, they are urged to attend all Sunday services regularly and prepare themselves for postwar service, while at home the folks are being guided by the instructions of the Government in preparing for postwar reconstruction.

Schools and Education

The school-age children came either to the Rushmore Independent District School or to one of the nine country schools in the community open in 1943-4, except that a few Catholic families sent their children to the Adrian parochial school. Two country schools were closed, one because of too few pupils, the other because no teacher was available. The children from these districts are transported to Rushmore or to Bigelow just outside the community. The attendance in the grades in the 12 public-school districts dropped from 270 in 1935-6 to 240 in 1943-4 as shown by the following summary of reports by districts.

Attendance in Graded Schools

Districts	1935-36	1940-41	1943-44
No. 9	12	10	8
" 11	12	15	15
" 12	23	21	17
" 20	27	15	15
" 21	30	29	36
" 36	21	22	18
" 41	7	12	11
" 52	17	23	14
" 69	20	6	6
" 89	20	14	15
" 92	15	18	20
" 17	66	79	65
Total	270	264	240

Rushmore Junior High School Enrollment

	1930-1	1935-6	1940-1	1943-4
Village	13	13	24	19
Open country	12	15	9	4

The "extra-curricular" programs have not changed much during the 10-year period. They have included:

1. Christmas programs at all schools.
2. A Mothers' Day Program or Parents' or Visiting Days at some schools.
3. Program for special events as Halloween or Thanksgiving followed by a box social at some schools.
4. Plays--sometimes includes young people of district also, as a means of making extra money for the school, are given in some instances.
5. A talented teacher may present an operetta occasionally.
6. All schools sponsor Junior Red Cross program.
7. During '40 - '41 all pupils were requested to go to family dentists for free check-up.
8. "Current Events", a weekly newspaper, is studied in most schools.
9. Many schoolhouses serve as meeting places for: township elections, Triple-A meetings, bond (war) meetings, 4-H meetings, School Board meetings, annual election of school officers, and business meetings.

The war has apparently not greatly changed the leadership responsibilities of the teachers to the school neighborhoods. From 1940 through to the present time the teachers are definitely more independent, as there are fewer competitors in the profession. Some do not assume responsibilities they might have felt called upon to do before the war. A majority of the teachers have the family car, or their own, and are in no way other than through the school program directly in contact with the community because they stay at their own homes. Some drive anywhere from 5 to 15 miles to their schools. A few have assumed leadership in the capacity of assistant 4-H leaders and P.T.A. officers.

The help given the metal-scrap drives in some districts was a definitely new service in the community. Some schools took it on as a special project; others didn't. Sometimes the farmers found it easier just to take it to town themselves--some was sold for money and some was donated. The Rushmore Commercial Club got trucks

to canvass the community and pick it up. Amounts turned in by schools were: Dist. 41 - 1,540 lbs.; Dist. 89 - 200 lbs.; Dist. 92 - 6,000 lbs.

Education of Farm Population

Educationally-minded people in Rushmore, as well as in other communities of Nobles County, have been much disturbed over the poor showing of Minnesota as a State and Nobles as a county in Bulletin 377 published by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in June 1944 entitled "Education of the Farm Population in Minnesota". In the 1940 rank of States according to percentage of population, 25 years old or over, who have had any high-school education, Minnesota was seventh from the bottom. In the table of counties showing percentage of farm population, 25 years old or over, with any high-school education in 1940, Nobles County was the 28th county with 16.2 percent. Some commentators have assumed that the German and Hollander families are more anxious to increase their holdings in farms and property for the benefit of their children than to send them through high school. As folks with these nationality backgrounds constitute a large proportion of the rural people of Nobles County, the lack of enthusiasm for high-school education in Nobles might be due largely to the influence of these elements in the population. As the information secured from the sampled families in the Rushmore community listed the nationality of the fathers and mothers of the husbands and wives, it was possible to make an analysis of the educational equipment of the members of these families which suggests that there may be some grounds for the above assumption.

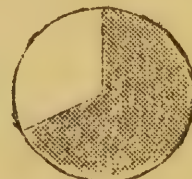
School Attendance

The percentage of the children of high-school age, belonging to the families interviewed, who were in school in 1944 differed as between those of

German and Hollander
Parentage -
50% attended



Other
Parentage -
67% attended



Adults, 21 years of age or over, 1944, with any
high school education

21% of the men with at least 3/4 German or Hollander ancestry
33% " " " " " " 3/4 other ancestry

18% of the women with at least 3/4 German or Hollander ancestry
42% " " " " " " 3/4 other ancestry

IN RUSHMORE RURAL LIFE PROCEEDS ABOUT NORMALLY

The war has brought to the village and farm community of Rushmore many problems dealing with shortages of farm labor and machinery. However, the stimulation of higher prices for farm products together with motives of patriotism and duty seem to have increased production in about the same degree that higher prices would have brought about, under the same weather conditions, in other times. Some village business places have closed because of war conditions or perhaps because of the trend for certain types of trade to drift from a small village to a growing city 10 miles away. On the other hand are some signs of a "comeback" that may continue with the postwar period. Hardships and sorrows have come to certain families because of the war. To the larger number, however, the effects of the war have so far brought increased prosperity rather than unusual sacrifices. The daily habits of life in the homes, on the farms, in the village, at church, in school, at gatherings, in health or when sick have not been greatly modified. No cultural revolution is in progress. No new epoch of rural life is in sight. Rushmore is still alive in June 1945. The interests and activities of its people appear quite normal.

THE ENTERPRISE
Established in 1899

Rushmore, Minn., June 1945

NOBLES COUNTY PICNIC
HERE TUESDAY

New Barber Shop :
To Open Friday :
:

RUSHMORE TO HAVE
SATURDAY NIGHT MOVIES
Beginning June 30th

APPENDIX

The Survey Sampling Method

An examination of the 1940 census data showed that a 10-percent sample (13 village families by selecting every tenth one and 37 farm families checked by a grid graph on Dewald, Little Rock, and Ransom township plat maps) should provide a realistic statistical picture of the people and how they live in this rural community representing the highly productive agricultural Midwest. The answers to questions on schedules approved by the Federal Budget Bureau were secured by personal visits in July to October 1944 by a local woman, the wife of the rural mail carrier. She and her husband have taught school in many of the rural schools in the community in earlier years.

The representativeness of the sample, 192 of the 2,038 population living in 50 of the 497 houses in the Rushmore community, is indicated by several significant comparisons uncovered as the survey progressed.

Nationality backgrounds: -

Rushmore and the county were in about the same proportions: -
German, Hollander, Scandinavian, Scotch, English, Yankee.

Rural population percentages: -

Age group 1-19 years, Rushmore sample 44%, county 43% (1940 census)
Age group 45 and over, Rushmore " 26%, " 21% " "

Rural adults, 25 or over, who have attended high school: -

Rushmore sample 23% County 18% (1940 census)

Size of farms: -

20 acres to 99 acres - Rushmore sample 3%, County 8% (1940 census)
260 acres and over - Rushmore " 26%, " 24% " "

Tenure: -

Owners - Rushmore 30%, Three townships 44%, County 47% (census)
Renters - Rushmore 70%, " " 56%, " 53% "

CENSUS DATA

(a) Population

	1940	1930	1920	1910
Dewald Township	523	557	513	454
Little Rock Township	527	559	500	585
Ransom Township	565	502	517	464
Rushmore Village	423	332	313	237
Rushmore Community	2,038	1,950	1,843	1,740
Rural farm	1,615	1,618	1,520	1,503
Rural nonfarm	423	332	313	237
Nobles County	21,215	18,618	17,917	15,210
Urban	5,918	3,878	3,481	---
Rural farm	10,381	10,338	10,970	9,359
Rural nonfarm	4,916	4,402	3,466	5,851

(b) Characteristics of Housing - 1940

Characteristics of Housing	Rural Farm		Rural Nonfarm
	Nobles: County:	Dewald, Little Rock: & Ransom Townships:	Rushmore Village
Total dwelling units	: 2,320:	369	: 128
Owner occupied	: 45.1%:	43.4%	: 60.2%
Reporting 1.51 or more persons per room	: 3.8%:	5.2%	: 7.9%
Needing major repairs	: 6.2%:	3.6%	: 3.9%
No private bath	: 92.6%:	95.8%	: 79.7%
No running water in unit	: 89.2%:	92.4%	:
No toilet in structure	: 91.1%:	94.0%	:
No indoor or outdoor toilet	: 1.8%:	5.7%	:
No electric lighting	: 53.7%:	71.5%	:

CHARACTERISTICS OF 50 RUSHMORE FAMILIES
37 on farms, 13 in the village

Table 1.

(a) Nationalities of families, both husband and wife:

German	22	Scandinavian	8
Hollander	9	Others	11

(b) Nationalities of husbands' and wives' parents:

German	98	Irish	4
Hollanders	30	French	3
Swedes	15	Danes	3
Scotch & Scotch Irish	14	Polish	2
English	11	Finns	2
Yankees	9	Penn. Dutch	3
Norwegians	6		

Table 2.

(a) On full-time farms: - 1944, 37 families; 1940, 34 families

On 80 acres	1	" ;	1	"
On 160 acres	20	" ;	17	"
On 240 acres and over	16	" ;	16	"

Note - 3 youth operating farms in 1944 were not doing so in 1940

(b) Have lived at present location: No. Families On farms In village

Less than 5 years	24	17 (48%)	7 (54%)
5 to 10 years	11	8 (22%)	3 (23%)
Over 10 years	15	12 (30%)	3 (23%)

Have moved last 10 years:

0 times	26	21 (57%)	5 (38%)
1 time	14	8 (22%)	6 (46%)
2 times	4	4 (11%)	0 (0%)
3 times	3	3 (8%)	0 (0%)
4 times	2	0 (0%)	2 (16%)
5 times	1	1 (2%)	0 (0%)

Table 3.

(a) Heads of households: Men		No. Families	On farms	In village
Ages:				
23 to 34	17	16 (44%)	1 (8%)	
35 to 44	10	7 (19%)	3 (23%)	
45 to 54	12	10 (28%)	2 (16%)	
55 to 64	6	3 (9%)	3 (23%)	
65 and over.	4	0 (0%)	4 (30%)	
Highest school grades:				
1 to 6	6	2 (5%)	4 (30%)	
7 and 8.	32	24 (67%)	8 (60%)	
9, 10 and 11	8	8 (22%)	0 (0%)	
12	3	2 (6%)	1 (10%)	
Wives:				
Ages:		Highest school grades:		
18 to 24	4	1 to 6.	2	
25 to 34	11	7 and 8	34	
35 to 44	13	9, 10 and 11.	6	
45 to 54	12	12.	5	
55 to 64	8	college	3	
65 and over.	2			
Others:				
Ages:				
Under 5.	20	35 to 44.	0	
5 to 14.	36	45 to 54.	0	
15 to 24	29	55 to 64.	2	
25 to 34	2	65 and over	5	
(b) Comparison of cash income today with before the war:				
More than before	19	On farms. . . 18	In village. . .	1
Less than before	4	" " . . . 1	" " . . .	3
Same as before	27	" " . . . 18	" " . . .	9
Source of income, 1940:				
Farm	36	Janitor	1	
Garage	2	Laborer	1	
Wages.	1	Blacksmithing & welding	1	
Hardware	1	Oil business.	2	
Elevator	1	Dealer.	1	
Carpenter.	1			
Source of income, 1943:				
Farm	39	Wages	1	
Garage	2	Hardware.	1	
Oil business	2	Elevator.	1	
Blacksmithing & welding. . .	1	Carpenter	1	
(c) Family reasonably sure of satisfactory jobs for members after the war:				
Yes.	48	No.	2	

Table 4.

(a) Have near relatives retired from farming since the war began?			
Yes.	8	No.	42
Did near relatives retire from farming between 1930-40?			
Yes.	12	No.	38
(b) Individuals retiring:			
Men.	18	Women	9
Ages:		Ages:	
40 to 50	5	40 to 50.	1
51 to 60	4	51 to 60.	3
61 to 70	9	61 to 70.	5
(c) Reasons for retiring:			
Old age.	16	Financially able. . . .	3
Health	7	Difficult to get a farm	1

Table 5.

- (a) Service changes from one center to another:
63 changes were made by twenty-four families living at present location under five years.
23 changes were made by twenty-six families living at present location five years or more.
- (b) Services which families in the community secured at least half the time locally:

Before the war :			Local :			During 1944		
No. of families:	Percent of sample :		Services Used			No. of families:	Percent of sample :	
19	: 38%	:Auto dealer		:	19	: 38%		
29	: 58%	:Bank		:	35	: 70%		
14	: 28%	:Barber shop		:	7	: 14%		
1	: 2%	:Beer parlor		:	3	: 6%		
22	: 44%	:Blacksmith shop		:	27	: 54%		
6	: 12%	:Bowling alley		:	8	: 16%		
2	: 4%	:Dance hall		:	2	: 4%		
24	: 48%	:Drug store		:	27	: 54%		
25	: 50%	:Elevator		:	28	: 56%		
13	: 26%	:Farm implement store		:	14	: 28%		
21	: 42%	:Filling station		:	25	: 50%		
21	: 42%	:Garage		:	26	: 52%		
27	: 54%	:Grocery store		:	29	: 58%		
24	: 48%	:Hardware store		:	28	: 56%		
21	: 42%	:Insurance agency		:	31	: 62%		
5	: 10%	:Liquor store		:	5	: 10%		
25	: 50%	:Lumber yard		:	27	: 54%		
14	: 28%	:Meat market		:	14	: 28%		
3	: 6%	:Pool hall		:	4	: 8%		
8	: 16%	:Produce dealer		:	8	: 16%		
11	: 22%	:Restaurant		:	11	: 22%		
10	: 20%	:Shoe repair and harness shop:		:	14	: 28%		
20	: 40%	:Variety or 5 and 10 store		:	21	: 42%		

Table 6.

(a) Inter-family visiting:

Families with whom most often associated:

Related families 145 Not related families . . . 86

Times during past twelve months that members of the 50 families
went to visit 3,907, the 37 farm families 3,070
Farm families who visited less than fifty-two times (40%) . . . 15

Times during past twelve months that members of the 50 families
were visited 3,684, the 37 farm families 2,830
Farm families who received less than fifty-two visits (51%) . . . 19

The families visited, or who did the visiting:

Lived in the community. . 110 Lived outside. 117

Compared to the number of visits made before the war:

More were made during the past year by . 7 families, 14%

Same " " " " " " " " 17 " ; 34%

Less " " " " " " " " 26 " , 52%

(b) Before the war trips were made to visit friends at a distance which
are no longer possible:

Yes 39 No 11

Village: Yes 12 (92%) No 1 (8%)

Farm owners: Yes . . . 9 (80%) No 2 (20%)

Farm renters: Yes. . 18 (70%) No 8 (30%)

Up to 45: Yes. 18 (72%) No 7 (28%)

45 and over: Yes . . 21 (84%) No 4 (16%)

Germans: Yes 15 (68%) No 7 (32%)

(c) Before the war made trips for recreation which are no longer possible:

Yes 31 No 19

Village: Yes 10 (77%) No 3 (23%)

Farm owners: Yes . . . 7 (64%) No 4 (36%)

Farm renters: Yes. . 14 (54%) No 12 (46%)

Up to 45: Yes. 16 (64%) No 9 (36%)

45 and over: Yes . . 15 (60%) No 10 (40%)

Germans: Yes 9 (40%) No 13 (60%)

(d) Since the war have made trips which were never made previously:

Yes 5 No 45

Village: Yes 1 (8%) No 12 (92%)

Farm owners: Yes . . . 1 (9%) No 10 (91%)

Farm renters: Yes. . . 3 (13%) No 23 (87%)

Table 6 (d) continued

Up to 45: Yes	2 (9%)	No.	23 (91%)
45 and over: Yes.	3 (14%)	No.	22 (86%)
Germans: Yes.	2 (9%)	No.	20 (91%)

Table 7.

(a) Participation in local organizations

In the past year										This year compared									
: more : 1/3 : less :										: with before war									
: than : to : than :										: Attended									
: 2/3 : 2/3 : 1/3 : more:										: less									
: of the meetings held:										often: same : often									
Attended meetings of																			
Cemetery Society	:	1	:	2	:	0	:	0	:	1	:	2	:		:		:		:
Commercial Club	:	2	:	2	:	0	:	0	:	3	:	0	:		:		:		:
Farm Bureau	:	3	:	5	:	5	:	2	:	5	:	3	:		:		:		:
Farmers' Union	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	0	:	0	:	1	:		:		:		:
4-H Club	:	5	:	0	:	1	:	2	:	2	:	0	:		:		:		:
Home & Community Department	:	11	:	1	:	0	:	5	:	2	:	3	:		:		:		:
Ladies' Aid	:	10	:	5	:	2	:	1	:	10	:	5	:		:		:		:
Methodist Circle	:	0	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:
Minn. Council Religious Edu.	:	0	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:
Missionary Society	:	5	:	2	:	0	:	0	:	5	:	2	:		:		:		:
Mothers' Club	:	2	:	0	:	2	:	1	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:
Bowling Meetings	:	1	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	2	:	0	:		:		:		:
Quartet Meetings	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	0	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:
Red Cross	:	4	:	1	:	0	:	3	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:
Boy Scouts	:	6	:	0	:	0	:	2	:	2	:	0	:		:		:		:
Girl Scouts	:	2	:	0	:	0	:	0	:	2	:	0	:		:		:		:
W.C.T.U.	:	3	:	2	:	1	:	2	:	3	:	1	:		:		:		:
Willing Workers' Society	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	0	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:
Women's Relief Corps	:	1	:	0	:	0	:	0	:	1	:	0	:		:		:		:

(b) Families reporting attending meetings of:

Nine organizations.	1	Three organizations	5
Eight organizations	2	Two organizations	10
Five organizations.	3	One organization.	11
Four organizations.	3	No organization	15

Table 8.

(a) Participation of members of families in war-related activities

War program or activity	: How did families participate?				
	: Attend :		: Serve on:		: Make :
	: meetings:	committee:	donation:	Other	
Air raid protection	: 8 :	9 :	0 :	0	
Junior First Aid Class	: 2 :	0 :	0 :	0	
Red Cross Blood Donations	: 0 :	0 :	1 :	0	
Red Cross First Aid Instruction	: 6 :	1 :	0 :	0	
Red Cross Meetings, etc.	: 10 :	3 :	2 :	0	
Aluminum Drive	: 0 :	0 :	30 :	0	
Fats Drive	: 0 :	0 :	25 :	0	
Metal Drive	: 6 :	9 :	42 :	0	

Table 8 (a) continued

War program or activity	: How did families participate?				
	: Attend	: Serve on:	: Make	:	:
	: meetings:	: committee:	: donation:	: Other	:
Paper Drive	: 0	: 1	: 41	: 0	:
Red Cross Drive	: 1	: 2	: 4	: 0	:
Rubber Drive	: 0	: 1	: 39	: 0	:
Triple-A Program	: 22	: 4	: 0	: 0	:
USO Drives	: 5	: 8	: 27	: 0	:
Victory Gardening, etc.	: 11	: 8	: 0	: 0	:
Red Cross Swimming School	: 5	: 0	: 0	: 0	:
War Bonds and Stamps	: 12	: 14	: 48	: 0	:

(b) Families reporting participation in:

One war program or activity.	1
Two war programs or activities	4
Three war programs or activities	2
Four war programs or activities.	2
Five war programs or activities.	8
Six war programs or activities	7
Seven war programs or activities	6
Eight war programs or activities	7
Nine war programs or activities.	5
Ten war programs or activities	4
Eleven war programs or activities.	2
Twelve war programs or activities.	2

(c) Information on war-related activities

War Program or Activity	: Source of Information					
	: Local	: Radio	: Special:	: County:	: Local	:
	: newspaper:	: program:	: meeting:	: worker:	: leader	:
Victory gardens,	:	:	:	:	:	:
canning, etc.	: 24	: 27	: 8	: 10	: 11	:
Nutrition	: 19	: 19	: 8	: 9	: 11	:
Helps in planning, pro-	:	:	:	:	:	:
ducing food	: 21	: 22	: 7	: 8	: 8	:
Helps to keep people well	: 23	: 21	: 7	: 7	: 8	:
Helps to reduce accidents	: 21	: 25	: 6	: 6	: 7	:

Table 9.

(a) Family intends after the war:

To build new house?		
Yes.	1	No. 1
To build new barn?		
Yes.	2	No. 0
To remodel house?		
Yes.	13	No. 2
To remodel barn or outbuildings?		
Yes.	10	No. 1

Table 9 (a) continued

To replace equipment:

To replace equipment:			Expect to replace with					
Equipment	:	:	Same	Newer	Same	More	Less	
	:New*:	type	style	value	costly	costly		
Furniture or rugs	: 0 :	1	: 18 :	11	: 7 :	1		
Heating system	: 1 :	1	: 10 :	1	: 9 :	0		
Kitchen stove	: 0 :	1	: 12 :	4	: 7 :	1		
Other kitchen equipment	: 1 :	0	: 4 :	0	: 3 :	0		
Plumbing and disposal	: 12 :	0	: 0 :	0	: 0 :	0		
Pump or water system	: 11 :	0	: 0 :	0	: 0 :	0		
Radio	: 0 :	1	: 11 :	6	: 3 :	0		
Refrigerator	: 16 :	1	: 9 :	3	: 6 :	0		
Washing machine	: 2 :	0	: 10 :	6	: 3 :	1		
Vacuum cleaner	: 12 :	0	: 3 :	2	: 1 :	0		

* Not a replacement as do not now have any.

